

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Press Release

Three promoted in Probation & Parole Division

Frankfort, KY – Kentucky Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Randy Focken today announced the promotion of three individuals within the Division of Probation & Parole, two to the position of District Supervisor and a third to Assistant Supervisor.

In the 6th District, which encompasses 13 counties including Boyd, Franklin and Anderson, Chris Copenhaver has been promoted to Supervisor. In Fayette County, Lelia “Lee” VanHoose was promoted to Supervisor of District 9. And in District 1, which includes McCracken and 10 other counties, Caroline Murphy was promoted to Assistant Supervisor.

Copenhaver has been a Probation & Parole officer since 1998 and in 2002, he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of District 6. He is a native of Pulaski County and a graduate of Lindsey Wilson College. He attended college on a baseball scholarship and while there, was named Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Student-Athlete of the Year. After graduating, he started a career in teaching and coaching high school baseball before he made the move to Corrections. He has continued and enjoyed a successful, part-time career as a baseball coach at Anderson County High School and in June of 2001, established a summer league baseball program for the youth of Anderson County. He and his wife Alicia Finnell live in Anderson County with two daughters, three-year-old Madeline Taylor and one-year-old Maison Carlisle.

“Chris Copenhaver brings a vast amount of experience and knowledge to this position. We are excited to have him as part of the management team,” said Focken.

VanHoose is a native of Johnson County and a graduate of Georgetown College. She earned her degree while fulfilling her athletic scholarship as a four-year starter on the Lady Tigers basketball team. Shortly after graduation, VanHoose began her career with Probation & Parole. In 1985, she worked in the Louisville Probation & Parole office preparing presentence investigation reports and in 1986, transferred to District 14, the Versailles office.

In 1998, VanHoose was promoted to Assistant Supervisor for that District. She resides in Lexington where she enjoys Central Kentucky sporting opportunities and activities, especially golf.

“Lelia VanHoose has been an Assistant Supervisor in District 14 for over 6 years. She has done an excellent job for us and we are excited about her future as a District Supervisor in Fayette County,” said Focken.

Caroline Murphy, a native of Caldwell County and a graduate of Murray State University, began her career as a correctional officer with the Kentucky State Penitentiary in 1984. While there, she was promoted twice and then in 1991, transferred to the Division of Probation & Parole. She is a resident of Paducah with cats Bennie, Karmen and new puppy, Minnie.

“Caroline Murphy has a wealth of experience in Corrections. We are happy to have her as Assistant Supervisor in District 1,” said Focken.

All three promotions are effective July 1.